the cremation site and mounted the burning pyre. The enquiries conducted by the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police reveal that Smt. Charanshah was not motivated or pressurised by anybody to take this drastic step. This is said to be a case of suicide, and not of Sati, as neither Smt. Charanshah nor the villagers had performed any pooja/rituals before the incident.

(c) The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes, including the administration of the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987, is primarily the responsibility of the State Government and Union Territory Administrations. Instructions/ guidelines have been issued, from time to time, to the State Government/Union Territory Administrations to effectively enforce legislation relating to crimes against women.

Infiltration of Mercenaries and Pak Regulars in J and K

1412 SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:—

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the National Herald dated September 1, 1999 captioned, Another Kargil in the offing, to the effect that over 500 armed mercenaries, mostly Afgans, and a large number of regular Pak Army commandos have infiltrated into Kashmir valley in batches along Pir Panchal passes;

(b) if so, Government's reaction to track the infiltrators and push them back; and

(c) the other steps being taken to prevent such infiltrations and to maintain the sanctity of the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Madam. There have been continuous efforts on the part of Pak ISI and pro-Pak militant outfits to induct more mercenaries from across the border/LOC with a view to carrying out terrorist activities. It is difficult to precisely ascertain the exect level of infiltration.

(b) and (c) A close and continuous watch is being kept and all necessary efforts, including improved border management and sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are

being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed. Government have taken several steps which include sensitising and gearing up of the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by concerned Central and State agencies, border fencing, intensification of border patrolling, upgrading of technical equipment with the security forces and increasing the number of check posts.

Districts Prone to Terrorism Casteism and Communal Tension

†1413. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that 210 districts out of the total 533 districts of the country are facing problems, either of terrorism, casteism or communal tension;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have obtained information regarding the State-wise number of such districts;

(d) if so, the number of such district in each State, State-wise; and

(e) whether Central para-military forces have been deployed in order to maintain law and order in each district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) The number of districts affected by various law and order linked problems vary from time to time. However, as per available information, a statement indicating the present number of districts affected by militancy/terrorism/insurgency as well as those which are communally sensitive and prone to caste tensions, State-wise, is attached. (*See below*)

(e) Central Para Military Forces are made available to assist the State Government on their request to maintain public order. The

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.